

Application Number: 10/687,338
Amendment dated: November 14, 2006
Reply to Office Action of: September 29, 2006

REMARKS and ARGUMENTS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the comprehensive Office Action rendered in the above-identified application. The applicant has reviewed all of the references cited by the Examiner and the arguments presented by the Examiner and has modified the claims herein in order to place them in allowable condition.

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 9 is objected to and not rejected and for this reason applicant has inserted the limitations of Claim 9 into independent Claim 1 and independent Claim 19. As such, each of these claims is now deemed to be allowable.

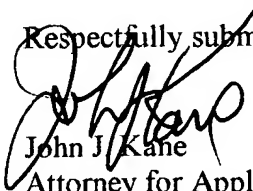
As such, applicant has canceled the originally submitted Claim 9 and has modified the dependency of Claim 10 to depend from Claim 1 rather than Claim 9.

In reviewing the Office Action, the applicant notes that the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Fujii reference 6,666,334. Furthermore the Examiner has issued an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in regard to Claims 6-8, 16, 17 and 20 based upon the Fujii in light of In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

In view of these modifications, applicant has deemed that the allowable subject matter submitted in originally submitted Claim 9 should be inserted into independent Claim 1 and independent Claim 19 such that both of those claims should be deemed to be allowable. Also Claims 2-8 and 10-18 which depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 should also be deemed to be similarly allowable.

In view of these amendments, applicant deem that all of the claims as now currently pending in the present application are in allowable condition and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance on this application is hereby respectfully solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the below attorney to resolve any outstanding matters in order to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


John J. Kane

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 26,921

SPERRY, ZODA & KANE

Suite D - One Highgate Drive

Trenton, NJ 08618

609-882-7575

FAX: 609-882-5815

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on

11/14/06

